



Language Exchange

Welcome Booklet



Getting started

Language Exchange is a chance to meet people from different backgrounds and swap languages in a fun, flexible and relaxed way.

In this Welcome Booklet, you'll find all you need to know about the program and to get started!

This includes some frequently asked questions about Language Exchange, plus conversation topics and prompts that you might like to use at your exchange sessions when you receive a buddy.

The benefits of language exchange are:

Improve your language skills and confidence

Build cross-cultural communication skills

Customise sessions to your goals and abilities

Learn in a flexible and relaxed way

Make new friends with people from around the world

Frequently asked questions

How does buddy matching work?

Our Language Exchange system makes buddy matches considering all your native/fluent languages and language preferences in order. If you have said you are happy to learn any language and/or have two buddies, this is also taken into consideration.

When does matching happen?

Matches where possible are made throughout the semester between Weeks 3 and 11, with our larger rounds of matching happening in Weeks 3 and 6. Please note that matching times will vary between registrants, depending on the availability of the languages listed in your registration. You will receive an email to let you know when we have found you a buddy!

Who can join Language Exchange?

Language Exchange is open to all USU members, domestic and international. You are also welcome to join whether you are studying on campus or off. Once you receive an email from us about your buddy, just contact them to let them know if you prefer to meet in-person or online, and arrange the sessions as suitable from there.

If for whatever reason your buddy was hoping to have either in-person or online sessions and this is not possible between you both, please feel free to contact us and we will try to help out from there.



Frequently asked questions

How many hours do I have to commit in Language Exchange?

Language Exchange is designed to be entirely flexible around your and your buddy's schedules. Whether you prefer to meet weekly, fortnightly or sporadically, that is completely up to both of you. Just let your buddy know when you first contact them and from there, organise a rhythm that suits both.

How many buddies can I have?

You can have up to two buddies in Language Exchange.

Can I request a preferred gender/study background/age of my buddy?

We very much understand that some participants may have preferences, however the matching system is currently unable to detect and apply these preferences. Doing so would also unfortunately limit the number of matches possible and students who are able to have a buddy.

If you are concerned about the suitability of the buddy you are matched with, for any reason, please feel free to contact us and we will arrange something from there.



Frequently asked questions

Can I request a change in buddies?

Please note that we use an automated system to assign matches that considers all your spoken languages and preferences, in order, as well as if you have indicated you are happy to learn anything and/or have two buddies. Unfortunately, not all language combinations are always possible.

As such, each match made is the best available outcome given the registration details and language combinations available at that time. If the buddy match is rejected, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to find another.

If you would like to request a change due to a lack of response from your buddy or for any other reason, please feel free to contact us and we will arrange something from there.

Can I update my registration details?

If you notice any errors in your registration or would like to change any details, please contact us.

How do I withdraw from the program?

If you are no longer able to participate in Language Exchange, please let your buddy know and contact us so we can remove your registration.



Conversation topics

In the next few pages, you will find a few conversation starters to help you when you meet your buddy:

Greetings

Introducing yourself

Education

Work life

Find out more

If you are a complete beginner in a language, we recommend bringing along a textbook or phrasebook to your sessions.

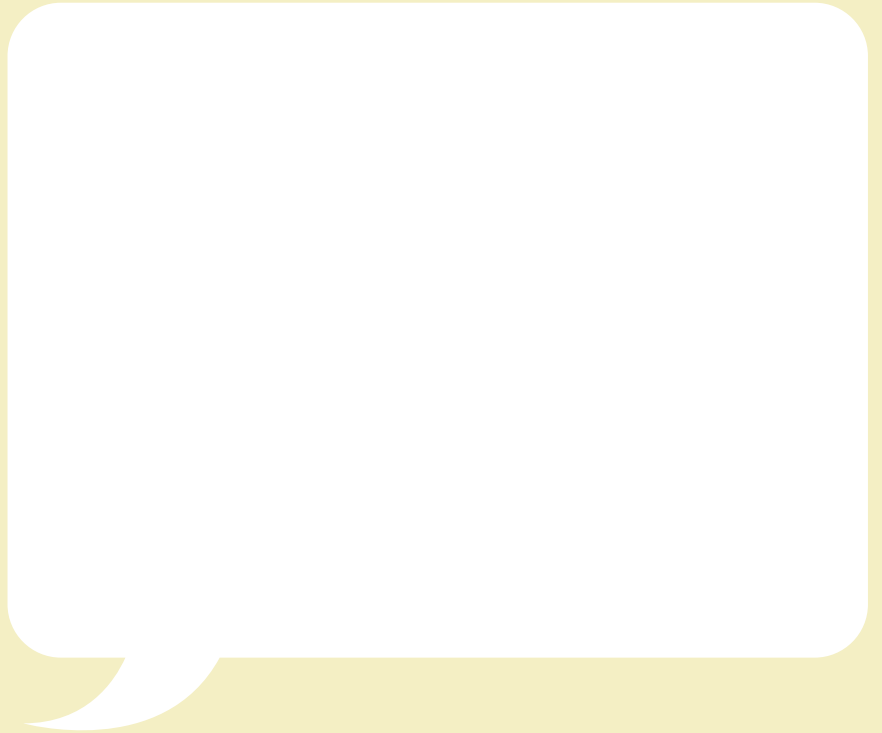
If you would like help in finding some language-learning materials, you may also like to visit the University of Sydney library website [here!](#)

Greetings

Hello!

How are you?

Nice to meet you

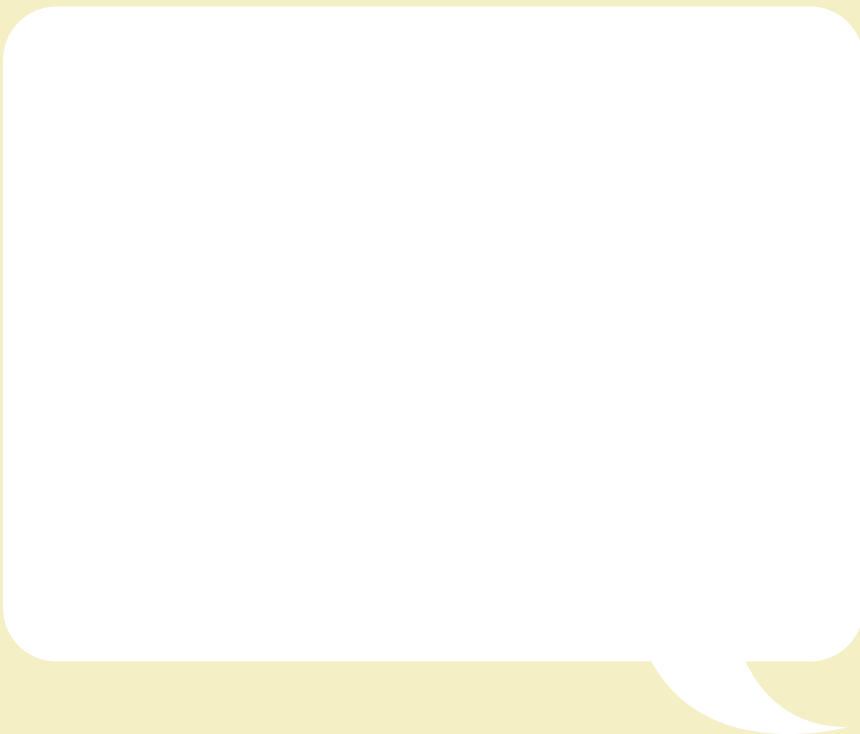


Good morning

Good afternoon

Goodbye

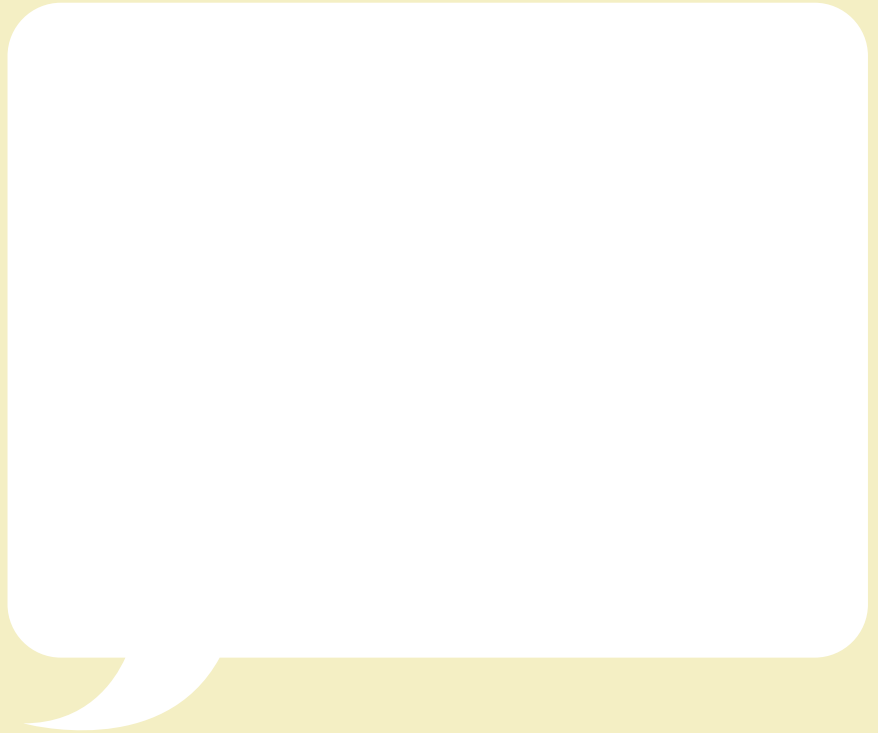
See you soon



Introducing yourself

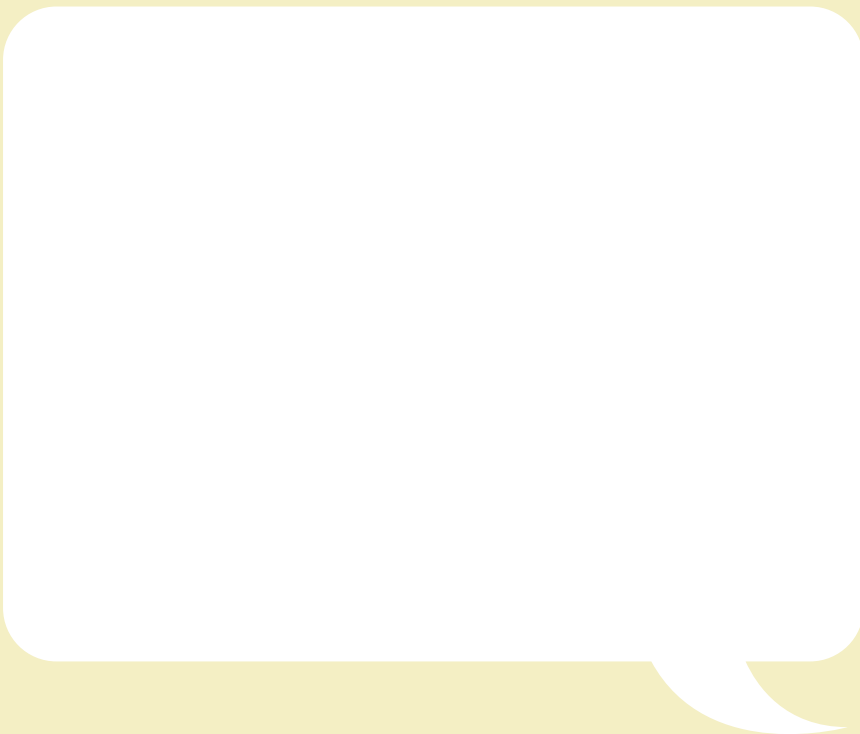
**What is your
name?**

**Where are
you from?**



**Where are
you currently
studying?**

**When is your
birthday?**



Education

**What are
you studying?**

**What is your
favourite class?**

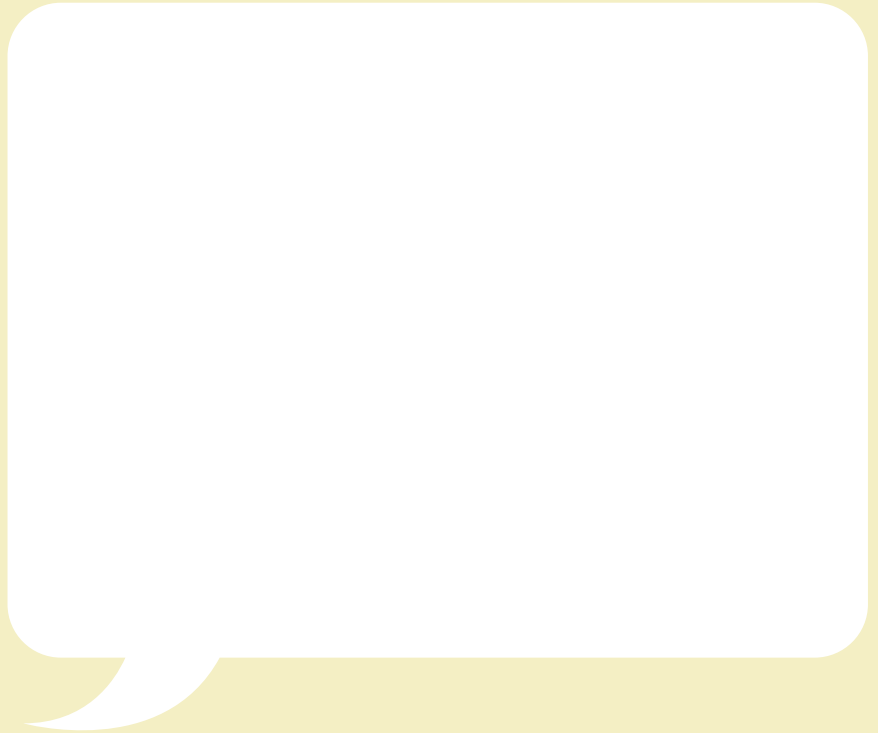
**Where do you
like to study?**

**What do you
think of USYD?**

Work life

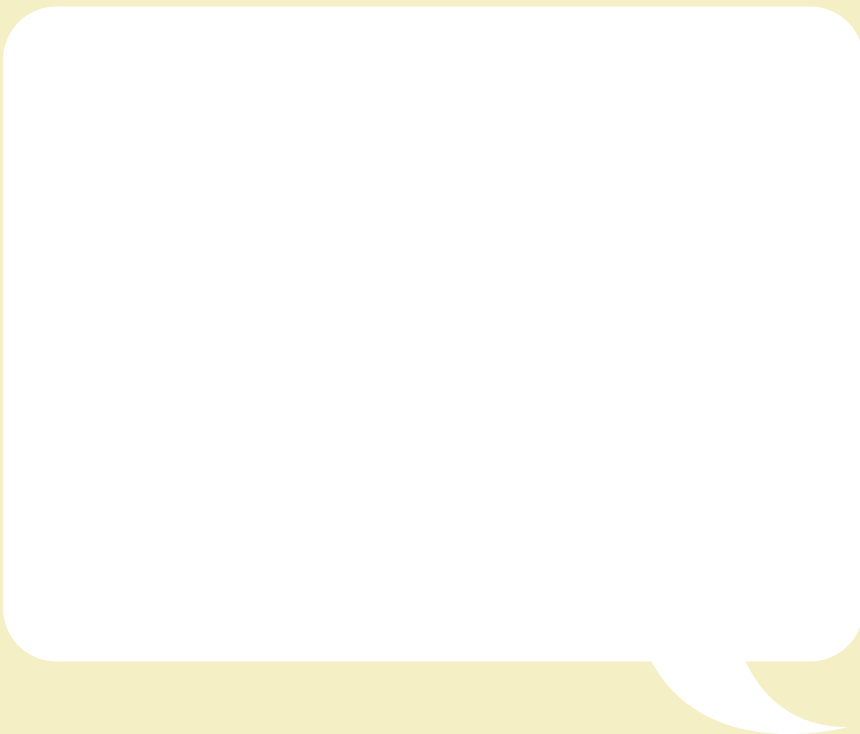
**Do you have
a job?**

**Do you enjoy
your job?**



I want to be a...

**(different
occupations)**



Find out more

**What are your
hobbies?**

Counting to 10

**Ordering food
and drinks**

**Different places
(e.g. restaurants,
post office, park,
shops)**

Transportation

What is the time?